

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel all claims without prejudice and add new claims 4-6 as follows.

WE CLAIM:

5 4. A method for character separation in text recognition tasks, comprising the steps of:

 first determining plausible points of intersection pertaining to extraction objects under examination via white paper analysis and angle analysis,

 second determining plausible separating lines from said plausible points of
10 intersection and corresponding mating points,

 classifying objects being separated via said first determining step and said second determining step, and;

 finally separating said objects based on said classifying step's results.

 5. A method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of:
15 performing a first section through a plausible point of intersection, said plausible point of intersection being selected fourth from a left-hand start of a character, provided that more than three plausible points are determined from said first determining step, said character being part of said extraction objects.

 6. A method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of:
20 providing a left-hand neighboring point of intersection, upon;
 a) carrying out said performing step with a first plausible point of intersection, and followed by;
 b) unsuccessfully attempting said classifying step,
said left-hand neighboring point of intersection being situated closest to the first

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